

Hook Neighbourhood Plan



Minutes of the Hook Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting Thursday, 17 March 2016 at 19.30 hrs Hall 2, Elizabeth Hall, Raven Road, RG27 9HH

Present Jane Bonnin (Parish Councillor)
Debra Davies (Parish Councillor)
Jane Worlock (Parish Councillor) (JAW)
Martin Whittaker (Chair)
Rob Leeson
Sue Mesher
Diana Whittaker (Secretary)
Liz Bourne (Consultant)

16.17 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Anne Atkins, Barry Deller, Christine Randall, Sandra Smith and Janet West (JWe).

16.18 Minutes of the NPSG Meeting held on 15 October 2015

Subject to a minor amendment, the minutes were agreed by those present at the previous meeting as a correct record of that meeting. DW will arrange for the minutes to be put on the website.

DW

16.19 Matters arising

15.99.02 Map

Loading onto the website is ongoing.

DW

16.04 Response to Hart Consultation :

This has been resubmitted.

16.05 Comments on the Rotherwick Plan

DW had received confirmation that the SG letter had been received. The next draft of the Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan is expected to be published in April.

16.16.9 Design Statement

A copy can be found on the website under "Useful Resources" "Hook Parish Plan Part 2".

16.20 Budget

LB said that formal end of grant had been submitted. The next grant period starts on 1st April 2016. MW said that the PC will be reviewing.

MW

16.21 Policies

MW and JB agreed to look at the draft evidence to check its accuracy, and especially to reflect its relevance to Hook. **MW
JB**

16.21.1 Site Selection

- .1 Confusion had arisen because none of the tasks identified at the last meeting had been specifically allocated to individuals. Also not all the draft policies had been discussed because of pressure of time. The meeting went through each of the sections reviewing notes made at the last meeting and adding new aspects.
- .2 It was agreed that a site selection assessment must be undertaken of the "Hop Garden" and "Garden Centre" sites. If no selection was made, then generic policies could be included, but this would limit the strength of the policies.
- .3 It is essential that the sites be assessed fairly and objectively. If the outcome is identical, then both sites should be put forward and policies drafted for each.
- .4 It was agreed that RL would brief BD to arrange for the Site Selection Group to carry out the necessary assessment. LB will send BD sample criteria. **RL**

16.21.2 "The Beating Heart"

RL had started work on this aspect. He had made contact with all those who had indicated their wish to be involved in this aspect. A meeting is likely immediately after Easter. RL had spoken to District Councillor Mike Morris and he is keen and happy to participate. **RL**

16.21.3 Green Spaces and Public Open Spaces to be protected

DD will investigate with Marian Bright in the PC office whether a map is available, then list and map important public open spaces, e.g. King George Playing Fields, Bassetts Mead, Hartletts Park etc. The definition is at page 8/9 of Draft Policies Version 3. **DD**

16.21.4 Hedgerows

DD will investigate with Marian Bright in the PC office whether a map is available and check on protected trees. **DD**

16.21.5 Footpaths and Cycle routes

- .1 Key services, including those in planned and potential developments, will be mapped and connecting footpaths and cycle routes identified as existing or required. It is believed that a map can be provided by the Parish Council Office.
- .2 MW agreed to ask John Orchard whether he would be prepared to head this aspect and will brief him if he is agreeable. **MW**

16.21.6 Public Transport

- .1 JAW will put LB in touch with Mandy Butler, the expert on buses in the area. **JAW**
- .2 DD said that an extended route for the Hook Hopper with an updated timetable has been agreed.
- .3 There is a perceived need from the Residents' Survey. Developer contributions can be sought for infrastructure, e.g. shelters.

16.21.7 Biodiversity

- .1 The bio-diversity plan under the NPPF is relevant DW will read and summarise the existing document in the Parish Plan. With an estimate of £2,500 to update the existing Report to include Holt Park might be disproportionate. **DW**
- .2 LB has identified on pages 13/14 of Draft Policies V3 some areas where evidence is needed. What are we trying to protect? Bats, badgers, deer, newts, etc need to be evidenced.
- .3 DD will check her ornithological and flora atlas to identify what may need protection. **DD**
- .4 As part of the work with Marian on maps in 16.21.3 and 4 above, DD will locate a list/map of copses, historic significance, ponds, common land, village green, "green spaces", anything protected and similar. It will be necessary to justify the importance of each to the Commissioner and why. **DD**

16.21.8 Housing Design

- .1 SM agreed to head this aspect. She was steered to the Housing Design Statement identified in "matters arising" above. Developers would have to comply with any "policy". **SM**
- .2 Also, Hart's Neighbourhood Characterisation Study, e.g. no flat roofs, local brick colour – also add "no gated developments".
- .3 It was emphasised that Hook's housing mix is different from Hart's. MW will ask CR to locate the PC's housing mix document for SM **MW/CR**
- .4 SM agreed to check with estate agents on the sizes of housing presently being sought, although the response is likely to be that they can sell anything. **SM**

16.21.9 Coalescence

- .1 Any gap between Rotherwick and Hook is within Rotherwick and the approach to Rotherwick was to ask them to protect the land and copses on the north side of Hook.
- .2 RL and SM agreed to feed in anything useful from the Hop Garden appeal relating to the Hook/Newnham gap to LB. **RL
SM**

16.21.10 Parking

Evidence, particularly photographic, is required as what is happening in problem areas – both residential and commuter. Suggested spots Bartley Wood, Holt Park, Hop Garden Road, Nursery Close

All

16.21.11 Education etc

- .1 Sports fields should be included and evidenced in “Green Spaces”.
- .2 It was noted that the Parish Council seeks to own all open spaces in new developments and they only maintain what is owned. MW agreed to evidence what has been achieved and how. LB will consider whether we can have a policy for all open space in new developments to be handed over to the PC.

MW

16.21.12 Leisure and Sports Facilities

JAW has been working on a list and will finalise.

JAW

16.21.13 Action for all groups

All sections were asked to submit a report by 14 April 2016 recording approach, progress and the plan.

All

16.22 Next meeting – Parish Council Meeting Room, Community Hall, Ravenscroft 21 April 2015

Then at Elizabeth Hall
19 May 2016
16 June 2016
15 July 2016
18 August 2016
15 September 2016
20 October 2016
17 November 2016
15 December 2016

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.